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DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC COOPERATION:

POPULATION QUESTIONS

HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

ENVIRONMENT

DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

Report of the Economic Committee

A. Population questions

1. The Economic Committee considered population questions (agenda item 15 (f)) at its 5th, 6th and 15th meetings, on 14 and 26 July 1993. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Progress report of the Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development on the preparations for the Conference (E/1993/49);

(b) Report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development on its second session (E/1993/69);

GE.93-70514 (E)

(c) Extract from the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme on its organizational meeting for 1993, its special session and its fortieth session (E/1993/L.24). 1/

2. At the 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 13 and 14 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the questions of population questions (agenda item 15 (f)), human settlements (agenda item 15 (g)), environment (agenda item 15 (h)) and desertification and drought (agenda item 15 (i)).

3. At the 5th meeting, on 14 July, the Committee heard an introductory statement by the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund and Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development.

4. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Benin, Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), China and Canada and the observers for Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), New Zealand and Israel.

5. At the 6th meeting, on 14 July, statements were made by the representatives of Australia, Poland, Chile, Egypt, Japan, Romania, the United States of America, Ukraine, Austria, the Republic of Korea, Turkey, India, Belarus, Mexico and the Russian Federation and the observer for Tunisia.

6. At the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization and the United Nations Development Programme. The representatives of the League of Arab States made a statement. The observer for Palestine also made a statement.

Recommendations contained in the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development on its second session

7. Chapter I of the report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development on its second session (E/1993/69) contained one draft resolution and three draft decisions recommended for adoption by the Council.

Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development

8. At the 15th meeting, on 26 July, the Committee considered the draft resolution entitled "Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development".

9. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Committee read out the following amendments to the draft resolution:

1/ The report of the Governing Council will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1993, Supplement No. 15 (E/1993/35).

(a) An eighth preambular paragraph was added, reading:

"Stressing the need for the intergovernmental preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development to be able to accomplish its work before the Conference itself";

(b) In the seventh preambular paragraph, which read:

"Considering that the General Assembly is the highest intergovernmental mechanism for the formulation and appraisal of policy on matters relating to the economic, social and related fields",

the words "the highest intergovernmental mechanism for" were replaced by the words "the principal organ best suited to";

(c) Operative paragraph 3, which read:

"Decides to examine at its substantive session of 1993, during its consideration of the provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 1994 and 1995 in the economic, social and related fields, the necessary arrangements to ensure adequate preparations for the Preparatory Committee and for the Conference",

was replaced by the following text:

"Decides to extend the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference by one week, starting on 4 April 1994, and to ensure that adequate facilities are available for it, all within the approved budget limit set by the General Assembly for the biennium 1994-1995";

(d) A new operative paragraph was inserted after operative paragraph 3, reading:

"Decides also to convene two-day pre-Conference consultations at the venue of the Conference".

10. At the same meeting, the observer for Egypt proposed that, in the third preambular paragraph, the words "45/217 of 21 December 1990 on the World Summit for Children" be inserted after the words "Least Developed Countries for the 1990s".

11. Also at the same meeting, a statement on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution was made by the representative of the Programme Planning and Budget Section.

12. Following statements by the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the European Economic Community), Brazil, the Russian Federation, the United States of America, Ukraine, India, France, Colombia and the observers for Egypt and Sweden, it was agreed that the seventh preambular paragraph be deleted (see para. 9 (b) above) and that operative paragraph 3 be placed in square brackets.

13. At the same meeting, the Committee then decided to refer the draft resolution, as amended, to the Economic and Social Council for further consideration (see para. 17 below).

Proposed conceptual framework of the draft recommendations of the Conference

14. At the 15th meeting, on 26 July, the Committee decided to refer draft decision I, entitled "Proposed conceptual framework of the draft recommendations of the Conference", to the Economic and Social Council for further consideration (see para. 18 below, draft decision I).

Participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the International Conference on Population and Development and its preparatory process

15. At the 15th meeting, on 26 July, the Committee decided to refer draft decision II, entitled "Participation of associate members of the regional commissions in the International Conference on Population and Development and its preparatory process", to the Economic and Social Council for further consideration (see para. 18 below, draft decision II).

Report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development on its second session and provisional agenda for its third session

16. At the 15th meeting, on 26 July, the Committee decided to refer draft decision III, entitled "Report of the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development on its second session and provisional agenda for its third session", to the Economic and Social Council for further consideration (see para. 18 below, draft decision III).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

17. The Economic Committee decides to refer to the Economic and Social Council, for further consideration, the following draft resolution:

Preparations for the International Conference on Population and Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolutions 45/216 of 21 December 1990 and 47/176 of 22 December 1992 and Council resolutions 1989/91 of 26 July 1989, 1991/93 of 26 July 1991 and 1993/4 of 12 February 1993,

Reaffirming Council resolution 1992/37 of 30 July 1992, in which the Council accepted the offer of the Government of Egypt to host the International Conference on Population and Development and decided to convene the Conference in Cairo from 5 to 13 September 1994,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolutions S-18/3 of 1 May 1990, containing the Declaration on International Economic Cooperation, in particular the Revitalization of Economic Growth and Development of the

Developing Countries, 45/199 of 21 December 1990 on the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 45/206 of 21 December 1990 on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s, 45/217 of 21 December 1990 on the World Summit for Children, 46/151 of 18 December 1991 on the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s, the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 2/ and Agenda 21, 3/ adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held at Rio de Janeiro from 3 to 14 June 1992,

Recognizing the particular importance of population issues in the context of sustained economic growth and sustainable development processes and conscious of the need to give priority to the issues related to population and development,

Aware of the political impetus given to the population issue on the international agenda since the decision of the United Nations to hold a meeting on population,

Taking note of the appointment of the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund as Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development and of the Director of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Information and Policy Analysis of the Secretariat as the Deputy Secretary-General of the Conference,

Stressing the need for the intergovernmental preparatory process for the International Conference on Population and Development to be able to accomplish its work before the Conference itself,

1. Recommends that the Preparatory Committee for the International Conference on Population and Development become a subsidiary body of the General Assembly, without prejudice to current arrangements for participation in the International Conference on Population and Development and its preparatory process, and in that context, decides that the report of the Preparatory Committee on its second session will be submitted, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session, to be considered under the item entitled "International Conference on Population and Development", stipulated in General Assembly resolution 47/176;

2. Requests the Secretary-General of the International Conference on Population and Development to prepare by February 1994, for the information of delegations, the first draft of the final substantive document of the Conference, taking into account the views expressed by participants during the second session of the Preparatory Committee and the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly;

2/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3-14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8), resolution 1, annex I.

3/ Ibid., resolution 1, annex II.

[3. Decides to extend the third session of the Preparatory Committee for the Conference by one week, starting on 4 April 1994, and to ensure that adequate facilities are available for it, all within the approved budget limit set by the General Assembly for the biennium 1994-1995;]

4. Decides also to convene two-day pre-Conference consultations at the venue of the Conference;

5. Expresses its appreciation for the extrabudgetary contributions which have been made to the trust funds established to assist developing countries, in particular the least developed among them, in preparing for and participating fully and effectively in the Conference and its preparatory process, and invites all Member States and organizations in a position to do so to support these trust funds further;

6. Reaffirms the significance of the media, and requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to promote the objectives and activities of the Conference;

7. Requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations, in collaboration with the Secretary-General of the Conference, to include in the report referred to in paragraph 20 of General Assembly resolution 47/176, an annotated outline of the final document of the Conference, as well as information on the implementation of the present resolution.

18. The Economic Committee also decides to refer to the Economic and Social Council, for further consideration, the following draft decisions:

[FOR THE TEXT OF DRAFT DECISIONS I-III, SEE THE REPORT OF THE PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON POPULATION AND DEVELOPMENT ON ITS SECOND SESSION (E/1993/69)]

B. Human settlements

19. The Economic Committee considered the question of human settlements (agenda item 15 (g)) at its 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 14th meetings, on 13, 14 and 23 July 1993. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourteenth session (A/48/8); 4/

(b) Note by the Executive Director of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) transmitting the third report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (A/48/8/Add.1)

(c) Note by the Secretary-General on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory (E/1993/64).

4/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/48/8).

20. At the 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 13 and 14 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the item (see paras. 2-5 above).

21. At the 3rd meeting, on 13 July, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme made an introductory statement.

Progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/162

22. At the 14th meeting, on 23 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that, in view of the fact that the progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/162 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory was not available in time for discussion at the substantive session of the Council, this issue be deferred to the resumed session of the Council, at which time the progress report would be made available to the Council (see para. 24 below, draft decision I).

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of human settlements

23. At the 14th meeting, on 23 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it take note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourteenth session (A/48/8) and the third report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000 (A/48/8/Add.1) (see para. 24 below, draft decision II).

RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

24. The Economic Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

DRAFT DECISION I

Progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/162

The Economic and Social Council decides that, in view of the fact that the progress report on the implementation of General Assembly resolution 46/162 of 19 December 1991 on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory was not available in time for discussion at the substantive session of the Council, this issue should be deferred to the resumed session of the Council, at which time the progress report would be made available to the Council.

DRAFT DECISION II

Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of human settlements

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the work of its fourteenth session 5/ and the third report of the Commission on Human Settlements on the implementation of the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000. 6/

C. Environment

25. The Economic Committee considered the question of environment (agenda item 15 (h)) at its 3rd, 5th, 6th and 14th meetings, on 13, 14 and 23 July 1993. It had before it the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventeenth session (A/48/25). 7/

26. At the 3rd, 5th and 6th meetings, on 13 and 14 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the item (see paras. 2-5 above).

27. At the 3rd meeting, on 13 July, the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme made an introductory statement.

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventeenth session

28. At the 14th meeting, on 23 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it take note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventeenth session (A/48/25) (see para. 29 below).

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

29. The Economic Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

5/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 8 (A/48/8).

6/ A/48/8/Add.1.

7/ To be issued as Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/48/25).

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventeenth session

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its seventeenth session. 8/

D. Desertification and drought

30. The Economic Committee considered the question of desertification and drought (agenda item 15 (i)) at its 5th, 6th and 14th meetings, on 14 and 23 July 1993. It had before it the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and of the medium-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region (A/48/216-E/1993/92) and on combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, waterlogging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia (E/1993/55 and Corr.1).

31. At the 5th and 6th meetings, on 14 July, the Committee held a general discussion on the item (see paras. 2-5 above).

32. At the 5th meeting, on 14 July, introductory statements were made by the Acting Director of the United Nations Sudano-Sahelian Office of the United Nations Development Programme and by the Assistant Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of desertification and drought

33. At the 14th meeting, on 23 July, on the proposal of the Chairman, the Committee decided to recommend to the Economic and Social Council that it take note of the reports of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and of the medium-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region and on combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, waterlogging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia. The representative of India made a statement. For the recommendation, see paragraph 34 below.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

34. The Economic Committee recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decision:

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-eighth Session, Supplement No. 25 (A/48/25).

Reports considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the question of desertification and drought

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the following reports:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Plan of Action to Combat Desertification and of the medium-term recovery and rehabilitation programme in the Sudano-Sahelian region; 9/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on combating aridity, soil erosion, salinity, waterlogging, desertification and the effects of drought in South Asia. 10/

9/ A/48/216-E/1993/92.

10/ E/1993/55 and Corr.1.